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THE FOUNDERS

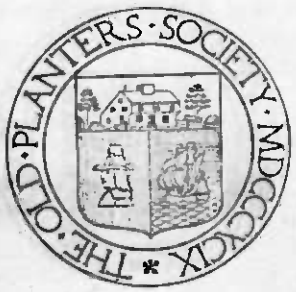
OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY

By Frank A. Gardner, M.D.

Vice President of the Old Planters Society

Deprinted from The Massachusetts Magazine



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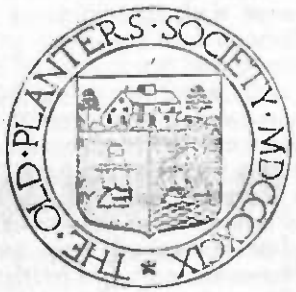

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[A tablet was unveiled at Gloucester, August 15, 1907, on which reference was made to the Cape Ann planters as the founders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The following paper is a review of the royal grants and charters in Massachusetts Bay with the particular object of emphasizing the claims of the Cape Ann men.]

THE FOUNDERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY

By Frank A. Gardner, M. D.*

In 1622, there was published in England, "A Brief Relation of the Discovery and Plantation of New England." This was dedicated to Prince Charles, and under the heading, "The platform of the government, and divisions of the territories in general" it was stated that—"As there is no commonwealth that can stand without government, so the best governments have ever had their beginnings from one supreme head, who hath disposed of the administration of justice, and execution of public affairs, either according to laws established, or by the advice, or consent of the most eminent, discreetest, and best able in that kind. And upon this general ground, the kings of these realms did first lay the foundations of their monarchies; reserving unto themselves the sovereign power of all (as fit it was) and dividing their kingdoms into counties, baronies, hundreds and the like: instituted their lieutenants, or officers, meet to govern these subdivisions. This foundation being so certain, there is no reason for us to vary from it, and therefor we have resolved to build our edifices upon it. So as we purpose to commit the management of our whole affairs there in general, unto a governor, to be assisted by the advice and counsel of so many of the patentees as shall be there resident, together with the officers of state. By this head, and these members, united together, the great affairs of the whole state is to be managed, according to their several authorities, given them from their superiours, the president and council established as aforesaid."

"And for that all men by nature are best pleased to be their own carvers, or orders whereof themselves are authors; it is therefor resolved, that the general laws whereby that state is to be governed, shall be first framed and agreed upon by the general assembly of the states of those parts, both spiritual and temporal." This whole territory was to be divided into "counties, baronies, hundreds and the like, from all which deputies from every county, and barony, are to be sent in name and behalf of the subjects, under them to consult and agree upon the laws so to be framed, as also to reform any notable abuses committed in former proceedings." Counties were to be governed by a chief head, deputy and other officers. Further subdivisions into lordships, with courts etc., were made.

A further statement is made, that: "There is no less care to be taken for the trade and public commerce of merchants, whose governments ought to be within themselves, in respect of the several occasions arising between them, the tradesmen, and other the mechanicks, with whom they have most

* This paper, in slightly amended form, was read at a meeting of The Old Planters Society.

o do." "By this you see our main drift is but to take care for the well rdering of the business, seeking by all means to avoid (what we may) the ntermeddling with any man's monies or disposing of any men's fortunes. ave only our own, leaving to every particular undertaker the employment f their profits, out of their proper limits, and possessions, as shall seem best o themselves, or their officers, or ministers, whom they employ, and whom hey may be bold to question, or displace, as to themselves shall seem most tting." This scheme met with the king's approval, and Captain John mith, in his "Generall History" published in 1624, shows a map with New ngland divided among "twenty patentees, that divided my map into wenty parts and cast lots for their share."*

Thornton writes: "The council's transaction being thus ratified by the rown, the several patentees of the territory of New England, became each lord protector of his portion, with an absolute title thereto, clothed with ll the powers of government, originally in the king, and by him vested in hem. Thus was derived the title and authority of Lord Sheffield in the exrcise of which he issued the charter for Cape Anne, under which the colony vas founded in 1624, which is now expanded into the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." **

In 1623, Edward Winslow was sent by the Pilgrims at Plymouth to ngland, to report about the colony and procure supplies. In London, he onferred with Mr. Robert Cushman, who had been at Plymouth, and vhom Gov. Bradford called the "right hand with their friends, the adentures, and for diverce years had done & agitated all their business vith them to their great advantage." *** Interest in the affairs of New ngland was aroused by these men, and among those, who were particularly ttracted, were the Rev. John White of Dorchester, England, father of the ape Ann Colony, and Lord Sheffield, already mentioned, a prominent ember of the Council for New England.

The charter, which the latter granted, was made on the "First day of anuary, Anno Dui 1623." by indenture "Betweene the right honorable dmond Lord Sheffield, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter on hone part, And Robert Cushman and Edward Winslowe for themselves, nd their Associates and Planters at Plymouth in New England in America n thother part."

"Wytnesseth that the said Lord Sheffield ***** Hath Gyven ***** for he said Robert and Edward and their associates ******* a certaine Tract of round in New England ***** in a knowne place there commonly called ape Anne, Togeather with the free use" of "the Bay of Cape Anne" *** and free liberty to ffish, fowle, etc." and trade in the lands thereabout, and n all other places in New England aforesaid "whereof the said Lord Sheffeld is or hath byn possessed." *** "Together also with ffive hundred

* The Landing at Cape Ann, 1624, Thornton.
** The Landing at Cape Ann, 1624, Thornton, p. 16.
*** History of Plymouth Plantation, p. 249.

Acres of free Land adioyning to the said Bay" ****** "for the building of a Towne, Scholes, Churches, Hospitalls" etc. also "Thirty acres of Land and besides" ***** "To be allotted" ***** "for every particular person" ***** "that shall come and dwell at the aforesaid Cape Anne within Seaven years next after the Date hereof." After seven years they were to pay a rental of 12 pence for every "Thirty acres soe to be obteynyd."* Edward Winslow in a pamphlet issued in 1624, asks: "What may the planters expect when once they are seated, and make the most of their salt there, and employ themselves at least eight months in fishing"?

This presentation of the advantages of such a settlement resulted in the forming of the Dorchester Company with a capital of 3000 pounds, largely through the efforts of Rev. John White. He did not find it a difficult matter to convince the merchants of that section of the value of such a settlement. They had felt the need of it sorely in their previous fishing ventures, as the slow-going vessels had been late in arriving on the grounds in the spring, and had reached the markets of England and Spain too late in the season on their return to sell their fish to advantage. Consequently the idea of a colony, where the fisherman might winter and get the early spring catch, appealed to them. The company sent over a band of men in the winter of 1623-1624, or the early spring of the latter year, who established a settlement at Stage Point, in what is now Gloucester. Capt. John Smith in his "General Historye," written in 1624, states, "There hath beene afishing this yeere upon the Coast, about 50 English ships: and by Cape Anne, there is a Plantation by the Dorchester men, which they hold of those of New Plimouth, who also by themselves have set vp a fishing worke."

We thus have undoubted evidence that the Cape Ann planters settled there by right of the charter granted by Lord Sheffield to Winslow and Cushman. They immediately organized with Mr. Thomas Gardner, overseer of the plantation, who thus was the first man in authority on the territory, which later became the colony of Massachusetts Bay. Mr. John Tilley had charge of the fisheries. The lack of fertility of the soil made the plantation unsuccessful and the following year, Roger Conant, having been recommended, was invited to come from Nantasket "for the management and government of all their affairs at Cape Ann." He was engaged by the officers of the company and informed "that they had chosen him to be their governor in that place." The validity of this title need not be discussed. The fact that it was used by the officers of the company, proves how he was regarded by them. It will also be recalled, that in the "Platform of the government," approved by the king, which was quoted in full, which constituted the rules for government, the management of the whole affair on this side the water, was to be committed to a "governor."

Roger Conant soon found out the cause of the failure of the first year's work. Hubbard states that he "disliked the place as much as the ad-

* Fac-simile of Charter in the Landing at Cape Ann, 1624, Thornton.

venturers disliked the business; and therefore in the meanwhile had made some inquiry into a more commodious place near adjoining, on the other side of a creek, called Naumkeag, a little to the westward, where was much better encouragement as to the design of a plantation, than that which they had attempted upon before, at Cape Anne." Mr. White wrote to Conant that if he would induce John Woodbury, John Balch and Peter Palfrey to stay with him, that he would procure a charter for him and send whatever he needed, "either men or provisions or goods wherewith to trade with the Indians."

The courageous little colony, with Conant at its head, went to work at Salem, erected houses and tilled the soil, using the fish for a fertilizer. Conant had made his position more secure by conferring with the Indians and receiving from them "free leave to build and plant, where we had taken up their lands," quoting the words of Humphrey Woodbury in a deposition. He showed equal caution in choosing a location on the southern side of the Naumkeag River to avoid any complications which might arise in regard to the Mason claims.

While they were struggling here, greater plans were developing in England, and in March, 1627, the Council, established at Plymouth, (England,) "for the planting, ruling, ordering and governing of New England" ***** "sold unto some knights and gentlemen about Dorchester, viz., Sir Henry Roswell, Sir John Young, Knights, Thomas Southcoat, John Humphrey, John Endicott and Simon Whetcomb, Gent.," that part of New England, three miles north of the Merrimack and three miles south of the Charles River in "the bottom of Massachusetts Bay."* The Council that sold the land had been incorporated the 3d. of Nov., 1620, under patent of King James. This is called by Young, in his Chronicles, "the great basis of future patents and plantations that divide the country."

The men above mentioned united to form the "Company of the Massachusetts Bay." They chose Mr. Craddock for Governor in England and sent John Endicott to this country. He sailed from Weymouth, June 30, 1628, in the Ship Abigail and arrived at Salem, Sept. 6, 1628. In his first letter to the home government of the Company, dated Sept. 13, he stated that uniting his own men with those formerly planted in the country, into one body, they made up in all not much over 50 or 60 persons. Concerning the relations of the Endicott men and the planters, Richard Brackenbury, who came with Endicott, deposed that: "Having waited upon Mr. Endicott, when he attended the company of the Massachusetts Patentees when they kept their court in Cornewall street in London, I understand this company of London having bought out the right of the Dorchester merchants in New England, that Mr. Endicott had power to take possession of theire right in New England."

A letter written Apr. 17, 1629, dated at Gravesend, informed Mr. Endicott that a government called "the Council of the Massachusetts Bay" had

* Hubbard's History of New England, p. 108.

been authorized and formed, and that, "in prosecution of that good opinion" they had always had of him, they had "confirmed" him "Governor of" the "Plantation." They wrote that they had joined in commission with him the three ministers, Messrs Higginson, Skelton and Bright, Mr. Thomas Graves and Mr. Samuel Sharp. Continuing their instructions, they wrote: "We have ordered that the body of the government there shall consist of thirteen persons, we are content the old planters that are now there within our Plantation and limits thereof, shall choose two of the discreetest and judicial men from amongst themselves to be of the government, that they may see we are not wanting to give them fitting respect, in that we would have their consent (if it may be) in making wholesome constitution for government" ******** "and that it may appear, as well to all the world, as to the old planters themselves, that we seek not to make them slaves, (as it seems by your letter some of them think themselves to be become by means of our Patent) we are content they shall be partakers of such privileges as we, from his Majesty's especial grace, with great cost, favor of personages of note, and much labor, have obtained; and that they shall be incorporated into the Society, and enjoy not only these lands which formerly they have named, but such further proportion as by advise and judgment of yourself, and the rest of the Council, shall be thought fit for them, or any of them. And besides, it is still our purpose that they should have some benefit by the common stock, as was by your first commission directed and appointed."

It is evident that the patentees who sent Endicott, fully recognized the claims of priority of the old planters, and that those claims were so incontestible that they were very anxious in every way to placate the planters, even to the point of granting them privileges that were withheld from their own men, such as the raising of tobacco. Endicott was fully as anxious to please them, and in making these efforts, he demonstrated without a doubt that HE KNEW PERFECTLY WELL WHOM HE CAME TO SUPPLANT IN HIS EFFORT TO SET UP A STRONG GOVERNMENT. The settlers at Plymouth had their own government, and we have no records to prove that settled, orderly government had been established anywhere else along this Massachusetts coast, than at Plymouth and Naumkeag. Small parties had landed at other places, some of which had received grants, but no one has yet proved that any of these parties had established decent and orderly government, or made the slightest claim that any member of these parties had co-operated with Endicott in establishing government in the extensive territory over which he was placed in control. We know from the above, however, that the old planters were not only recognized, but requested to name two members of the Council from their own number.

Concerning the governmental authority exercised by Endicott, there can be no doubt. Hubbard mentions his laying some "foundation of religion as well as civil government." He also tells us that the news of the doings of Morton and his men at Merry Mount having been "brought to Mr.

Endicott, the deputy governour of the Massachusetts, soon after his arrival in the year 1628, he went to visit it, and made such reformation as his wisdom and zeal led him unto." Later he writes: "Upon a general complaint of all the inhabitants on either side, he was seized by force, and sent over to the general council of New England." By "this means Mr. Wollaston's plantation came much to the same conclusion as Mr. Weston's. (at Wessagusset or Weymouth) so as the place now wholly deserted, fell into the hands of persons of another temper, by whom it is since improved to become the seat of an honest, thriving and sober township." This journeying of Endicott across the bay to Mount Wollaston, in 1628, showed the extent of his authority, confirming what has been stated before, that the southern boundary of the patent was three miles south of the Charles river.

In 1629, the colony was greatly augmented by the arrival under the leadership of the Reverends Higginson and Skelton, of what Captain John Smith, writing in the same year, calls "a great company of people of good ranke, zeale, meanes, and quality," ***** "with six good ships in the moneths of April and May." These ships made quite a formidable fleet of armed vessels. He gives the following list of names and armament: "The George Bonaventure, of twenty pieces of Ordnance, the Talbot nineteene, the Lions-whelpe eight, the Mayflower fourteene, the Foure Sisters fourteene, the Pilgrim foure, with three hundred and fifty men, women, and children; also an hundred and fifteene head of Cattell, as horse, mares, and neat beast: one and forty goats, some Conies, with all provision for household, and apparell; six peices of great Ordnance for a Fort, with Muskets, Pikes, Corslets, Drums, Colours, with all provisions necessary for a plantation, for the good of man." While we have reason to believe that Smith rather over-estimated the number of persons in this migration, his account of the various implements of warfare shows that the authority of the resident governor was to be vigorously supported.

Rev. Francis Higginson in his "New England Plantation," written in September, 1629, stated that: "We brought with us about two hundred passengers and planters more: which by common consent of the old planters, were all combined together into one body politic, under the same Governor." ****** "There are in all of us, both old and new planters, about three hundred, whereof two hundred of them are settled at Nahumkek, now called Salem."

William Hubbard, who was born in 1621 and graduated from Harvard in 1642, in his "General History of New England," observes: "Witness the industry and solicitousness of Mr. White of Dorchester in England, that first contrived the carrying on a plantation of sober and religious men." ***** "In the beginning of that plantation at Cape Anne, they had the ministry on Mr. Lyford. ****** After he went to Virginia they were without, till Mr. Higginson and Mr. Skelton came over." Showing here, as he does in several instances, his belief in the continuity of logical sequence of the settlements, he writes again: "In this place, (soon after by a minister that came with a company of honest planters) called Salem, from

that in Psal. LXXVI, 2, was laid the first foundation on which the next colonies were built." After mentioning the efforts of Wollaston at Mount Wollaston, Morton at Merry Mount, Weston at Wessagusset or Weymouth, and Thomson at Thomson's Island, he writes: "But the vanishing of all the foregoing attempts did but make way for the settling of the colony of the Massachusetts, and this was the occasion thereof." He then narrates the early efforts of the fishermen on the coast, the formation of the Dorchester Company, with the resulting establishment of the settlement at Cape Anne under the supervision of Gardner and Tilly, and the successive stages following, which have been noted. He narrates this in a chapter which he calls "The discovery and first planting of the Massachusetts," and after carrying the story along through the coming of Higginson and Skelton, he writes: "Who were the principal actors in laying the foundation of the Massachusetts colony, hath been declared already." All of this we receive from a man who was a contemporary of the leaders whom we have named, Gardner, Conant, Endicott and Winthrop, and a personal friend of many of the great men of the first eighty years of the colony. The book which he wrote was considered so valuable by the colonial authorities that the General Court, 11 Oct., 1682, granted fifty pounds to the author "as a manifestation of thankfulness" for the history, "he transcribing it fairly, that it may be more easily perused."

The colony grew rapidly during the year 1629. In accordance with the instructions given to Gov. Endicott by the leaders of the company, the following were sent to what is now Charlestown: Ralph, Richard and William Sprague, John Meech, Simon Hoyte, Abraham Palmer, Nicholas Stowers, John Stickline, Mr. Graves and the minister, Mr. Bright. The name of the new town and the plan of the streets were both approved "by Mr. John Endicott, Governor."

On the 8th of May, 1632, the session of the General Court, which has since been referred to as the "embryo parliament" was held in Boston. This was a notable occasion, as then for the first time, in addition to the Governor, Deputy Governor and assistants, two representatives from every plantation were chosen. The plantations thus named were: Watertown, Roxbury, Boston, Saugus, Newton, Charlestown, Salem and Dorchester. It is a notable fact that the two chosen from Salem were both Cape Ann Planters, namely, Mr. Roger Conant and Peter Palfrey.

So far as is known, the names and biographies of these planters are as follows:

WILLIAM ALLEN was born about 1602, and came to Cape Ann with the Dorchester Company's men in 1623 or '4. He went to Naumkeag in 1626 and lived in Salem until about 1640 when he removed to Jeffrey's Creek (Manchester). He was a selectman in 1645 and 1668. His occupation was that of carpenter. In the Salem records, he is described as "an influential and enterprising citizen." The same may be justly said of many of his descendants in Salem and Manchester. Some of our leading mer-

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chants and master mariners have borne the name. He died on May 10, 1678.

JOHN BALCH came from Somerset Co., England. He was born about 1579 and came to New England with the Robert Gorges Company in 1623. After Gorges left he went in 1624 to Cape Ann, removing to Naumkeag in 1626. He was one of the five overseers in 1635, and on Nov. 25th of the same year was one of the five old planters, who received a grant of 200 acres each at the head of Bass river. He lived in Beverly near the present Kittredge Crossing, where the house built by him in 1638 is still standing. This is the only original house of an old planter now in existence. He died in May, 1648. His descendants have been numerous and many of them prominent.

ROGER CONANT was born at Budleigh, England, and baptized 9 Apr., 1592. He came to Plymouth about 1622, and when Oldham and Lyford were expelled, he voluntarily left the colony and went to Nantasket. In 1625, he was invited as we have already said, to take charge of the entire enterprise at Cape Ann, and through his leadership the colony was removed to Salem in 1626. He displayed remarkable ability in keeping the little band together through the two hard years until Endicott came in 1628, and wonderful tact and good judgment in pacifying the strenuous planters until a peaceful agreement was reached with the new comers. As we have stated, he was one of the two men, who first represented Salem in the "embryo parliament" at Boston, May 8th, 1632. He was a deputy to the general court in 1634 and 1637. On May 17 of the latter year, he was appointed one of the magistrates of the "particular courts at Salem." He was one of the old planters who received a two hundred-acre grant at the head of Bass River. His house stood a short distance from the one erected by John Balch. In 1659, he headed a list of 41 petitioners, who asked that a church might be established on the Beverly side. He held many other offices of honor and trust in both Beverly and Salem, and died Nov. 19, 1679. Few cities can appropriately look upon one man as distinctively the "father" as can Salem upon Roger Conant, and Salem's twin sister across the river, Beverly, can claim the same right. Roger Conant's descendants are numerous and able, and it is to their credit that they are about to erect a magnificent monument to his worthy memory.

THOMAS GARDNER, the first overseer of the plantation at Cape Ann, was born about 1592. After the two years at Cape Ann, he removed with Conant and the others to Naumkeag in 1626. At a meeting of the London Company, July 28, 1629, he was mentioned as "one Mr. Gardner, an able and expert man in divers faccultyes." In a deed recorded 11-14-1635, we find the following five names appended: John Endicott, Roger Conant, Thomas Gardner, Jeffrey Massey and Edmund Batter. He was one of the original members of the First Church in Salem, a deputy to the General Court in 1637 and one of the "twelve men" of the town in the same year.

He held also many other offices. He died on the 29th of the 10th month, 1674. Mr. George D. Phippen, in his valuable work, "The Old Planters of Salem," makes the following allusion to the Gardners: "This surname has been known and respected throughout the entire history of Salem, and descendants are still numerous in this, the primitive abode of their ancestors." The district, which Thomas Gardner did so much to found is at present ably represented in Congress by a descendant in the tenth generation.

THOMAS GRAY, as Phippen tells us, was "a very early settler. He purchased Nantasket of the Indian Sachem, Chikatanbut, as early as 1622, where he was living with John Gray and Walter Knight, and to his succor and hospitality the persecuted Episcopalians of Plymouth fled. He would very naturally therefore accompany "Conant to Cape Anne and Naumkeag, when the prospects were so flattering of the permanent establishment of Episcopacy." The same writer tells us that a Thomas Gray was at Marblehead as early as 1631 (at that time a part of Salem) and that his name is met with as of that place, until 1660 or later.

WILLIAM JEFFREY or Jeffries was born at Chuddington Manor, County Sussex, England. He took his B. A. at Cambridge, 1606, and his M. A. four years later. He probably came over with the Robert Gorges party in 1623, and went to Cape Ann with John Balch, when the Gorges settlement was broken up. We know that he moved from Cape Ann to Salem in 1626, as a letter, dated Apr. 21, 1629, was sent to him at Salem. While in Salem he resided at what is now Manchester, which was called at that time Jeffrey's creek. He evidently went back to Weymouth when a stable government was established there. He was a resident of Newport, R. I. in 1654, but the exact date of his removal we do not know. He died Jan. 2, 1675. His tombstone is still standing in the Newport cemetery.

WALTER KNIGHT was one of the Episcopalians at Nantasket in 1622, and removed to Cape Ann with Roger Conant. He was a carpenter and was probably employed in erecting the buildings there. Brackenbury, in his deposition, stated that when he reached Salem in 1628 he found Knight already there and that he had been employed by the Dorchester merchants. He was living in Boston as late as 1653.

RICHARD NORMAN was living at Salem when Endicott came in 1628, Brackenbury mentioning "old Goodman Norman and his sonn." He moved to Marblehead where both he and his younger son, Richard, were living in 1650 and '53. John, the elder son, went to Manchester, having received a grant there in 1637, and died there in 1672, aged about 60.

PETER PALFREY was one of the planters who removed to Salem in 1626. He received a grant of 200 acres at the head of Bass river. He, with Roger Conant, represented Salem in the first representative General Court, the "Embryo Parliament," May 8, 1632. In the Salem settlement, he lived on what is now Essex street, on the north side of the street, west of St. Peter Street. In 1652 he removed to Wakefield and lived near the present

station of the Salem Branch railroad. He died in 1663. He was mentioned as a man "much betrusted." Owing to a missing link in the genealogical chain, the Palfreys now living are unable to prove their descent from this worthy man.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM TRASK probably came from Somersetshire, England. He evidently went to Holland in 1623, and probably held some sort of military commission there. The exact date of his arrival is not known. He was one of the original members of the First Church in Salem, a deputy to the General Court in 1635, 1636, 1637 and 1639, and Captain of a military company in 1634. He was one of the five who received a two-hundred-acre grant. He was a valuable man in the town and built several mills on the stream called Gardner's brook. He served as Captain in the Pequot war. Phippen called him "an energetic man, a brave soldier and reliable in case of an emergency. He was one of the first, if not the first military commander in Massachusetts; we can safely say of him, as has been said of Capt. Mason, what Standish was to the Plymouth Colony, and Captain Mason to Connecticut, Captain Trask was to the Massachusetts." He died in May, 1666. His descendants are well known. The late lamented William B. Trask, beloved by all who were fortunate enough to know him, was in the direct line of descent from the brave Captain.

JOHN WOODBURY came from Somersetshire. He was one of the leading men of the little settlement and was sent back to England to procure supplies, returning in 1628, bringing his son, Humphrey, with him. He was one of the deputies to the General Court in 1635 and was one of the five who received a 200-acre grant. Phippen states that "after a life of energy, and faithfulness to the interests of the Colony, he died in 1641." Both he and his son, Humphrey, were members of the First Church at Salem. Humphrey was later a deacon in the Beverly Church. The family has been a prominent one and many descendants are now living in various parts of the country.

The conclusions of our study of the beginnings of the Massachusetts Bay Colony may be summarized as follows:

1. That this colony in 1630 was made up of several sets of men who came at various times during the preceding decade.

2. That some of these men of each of the separate parties which came, and some who came independently, lived many years in the colony and became powerful in making the laws of this commonwealth.

3. That of all these men who shared in the glory of laying this foundation, the individuals who were first connected with any orderly government in the district which later became Massachusetts Bay Colony, were the Cape Ann men of 1623-4, who had Thomas Gardner at their head as overseer of the plantation until 1625, with John Tilley in charge of the fisheries.

4. That the first man in charge of the entire enterprise there, was Roger Conant, who was variously styled, Governor, and Superintendent at Cape Ann, in 1625-6, and at Salem, 1626-28.

5. That in 1628, Roger Conant was supplanted by John Endicott, who had been chosen by the "Company of the Massachusetts Bay," to take charge of affairs on this side of the water, the company sending him having "bought out the rights of the Dorchester Company" in England.

6. That in 1629, John Endicott was informed, in a letter from the home company, written Apr. 17, that a government called "The Council of the Massachusetts Bay" had been authorized and formed and that he had been confirmed "Governor of the Plantation."

7. That John Endicott held his office until John Winthrop came in 1630.

We may claim therefore that the title given the Cape Ann Planters on the tablet erected on the site of their first settlement, which was dedicated in August, 1907, is an eminently just and appropriate one, and that the men, whose memory it perpetuates, were the "Founders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony."